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"I HAD NO SYMPTOMS OF HEART ATTACK . . ."

(By Paul Simon)

As I look back on my 22 years in the House and Senate, I realize I would like to change a few of the votes I cast. Most people—and politicians probably more than most—hate to admit they are wrong. I was wrong though, and that was brought home to me recently in a most dramatic way.

It started when I happened to read a magazine article on a new device for measuring blockage of the heart arteries. The device takes a type of picture of the heart and coronary arteries (called a "heart scan," something like an X-ray) that can pick up hidden problems. I had no symptoms of heart trouble, such as chest pain or shortness of breath, but the article noted that about 20 percent of those over 60 (I am 70) who have a heart attack or stroke have no advance warnings.

I set up an appointment for a heart scan at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago on Nov. 10 last year. The scan took 10 minutes, but the results were startling: I was headed for a heart attack or stroke. As a result, last Jan. 5 I had a six-way heart bypass operation.

Today, I'm doing fine. It turns out that the heart scan—developed as a result of research done by Douglas Boyd at the University of California at San Francisco—probably saved my life. Sadly, I had to admit to myself that supporting funds for medical research was not something I devoted much time or effort to when I served in the Congress. I felt other issues were more important. Now I know how wrong I was. All around me are others—former colleagues and friends—who have benefited from medical research:

The TV talk-show host Larry King, who has had serious heart problems and undergone bypass surgery, often says, "Because of research, I'm alive today."

Sen. Ted Stevens (R., Alaska) and former Sen. Bob Dole (R., Kan.) had successful surgery for prostate cancer thanks to the benefits of medical discoveries.

U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D., Conn.) has been successfully treated for ovarian cancer.

But I also think of those who lost their battles or still struggle because not enough research has been done:

Jay Monahan, husband of the Today host Katie Couric, died at age 42 from colon cancer, because we don't yet have enough weapons against that disease.

Rep. Morris Udall (D., Ariz.) died of Parkinson's disease, another illness for which we're still seeking a cure. I watched Udall—a brilliant legislator with a great sense of humor—gradually decline in health. What a waste of talent that could have been prevented with more research!

My first memories of Christopher Reeve are of a dynamic, vibrant actor interested in public affairs. He is still vibrant and dynamic but more focused in his public-affairs interest as he presses with an understandable zealotry for research in spinal-cord injuries.

Rachel Mann, a marvelous young woman and family friend, had cystic fibrosis, the largest genetic killer of children. Because of her, I did push for additional funds for research into this disease when I was in Congress, but she ultimately lost her battle at age 25.

WE CAN DO BETTER

A century ago, the average U.S. citizen lived to be 48. Now we live to an average of 76—thanks in large part to medical research. Pharmaceutical companies do an excellent job in research, and they increased their research spending from \$2 billion in 1980 to \$20

billion in 1998. But we can't rely on them for basic research efforts. That's why funding for the National Institutes of Health, which does basic research that can benefit us all, is so important. Its funding has doubled in the last 15 years—to \$15 billion. But while \$15 billion is a sizable sum, it is inadequate when compared to what we spend on legalized gambling (\$638 billion in 1997), alcohol (\$95 billion) and cigarettes (\$50 billion). Two-thirds of Americans agree that funding for medical research should be doubled, according to a poll taken last year by the nonprofit advocacy group Research! America. Yet, for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, President Clinton has asked for just a 2.1 percent increase—barely above the inflation rate.

That's not nearly enough. We must do more. Greater focus on research would be a marvelous gift to future generations of my family and of yours. I know. It already has been a marvelous gift to me.

MATTYDALE, N.Y. SCHOOL CELEBRATES "VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK"

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives today the patriotic and noble intentions of students at St. Margaret's School in Mattydale, New York, in my home district. These young people, by way of Ms. Kimberly Arnold's Social Studies class, have taken it upon themselves this year to institute a new celebration honoring veterans of U.S. military service.

On November 8, 1999 the students will celebrate the first Veterans Awareness Week. The program will include patriotic songs by the school choir, essay contest readings, distribution of ribbons and special recognition by children to veterans in their immediate families.

This is a remarkable and worthy celebration of the sacrifices made by veterans in the United States. Worthy, because of the great service veterans have given our nation and the free world. Remarkable, because these young people have taken the initiative to recognize veterans in a time of peace. That their young lives include sensitivity to the fact that freedom is not free is wonderful tribute to our armed forces, past and present, and to the Founders of the United States of America.

THE SAINT GEORGE SOCIETY: A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON BAY COUNTY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Saint George Society who has served the citizens of Bay City, Michigan, since 1887. One does not often find, in our relatively young country, an organization with a continuous history of serving their fellow citizens for 112 years. The Saint George Society, however, has consistently carried out their mission to serve their community without hesitation and with much devotion.

Members of the Saint George Society have always vigorously upheld their pledge to aid the sick and needy among them. Although jobs were scarce and times were difficult in the early years of the society, they successfully raised money in order to help those in need. As their membership grew, the society was able to both rent space for their meetings at Pulaski Hall and continue to help the community in many significant ways.

In the early 1920's, the Society gave 25 dollars to returning war veterans who had been members of the organization before leaving for the War. Also, as a result of the Society's exclusively Polish membership, they made substantial efforts to buy Polish War Bonds in order to aid Poland. By 1959, the Society had weathered the great depression, two wars and a changing world. In spite of this, by the end of the year they were able to expand their services to care for mentally disabled children. On August 23, 1981, they opened the doors of a new facility which allowed them even greater opportunity to serve and be a part of the community.

On July 11, 1999, the Saint George Society celebrated many years of accomplishment by burning the mortgage on their property. As you can imagine, this was a very meaningful event for this organization which has given so much to Bay City. For them, burning this mortgage was more than just destroying a piece of paper, but was an event that represents many years of accomplishment, dedication, sacrifice and commitment.

Mr. Speaker, the Saint George Society has been a source of strength and pride for many years in the Bay City area. I know that they will continue to be a vital part of Michigan's Fifth District. For that reason, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in wishing the Saint George Society many blessings for the future.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS A. BUTTS, ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN'S WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Thomas A. Butts, Associate Vice President for Government Relations and Executive Director of the University of Michigan's Washington, D.C. Office, who is retiring from the University after 35 years of distinguished public service.

Mr. Butts has served as the University's liaison to Congress and federal agencies for almost two decades. In addition to opening the University's Washington Office in 1990, he has logged thousands of miles commuting between Ann Arbor and Washington as together we've labored to strengthen higher education in the United States.

Mr. Butts' success as an advocate for higher education emanates from his great personal warmth, his many contacts in government and academe, and his professional expertise, particularly in the area of student financial aid. Over the years, Mr. Butts has contributed enormously to the deliberations resulting in reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. He